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TERROR

TALES OF

HORROR



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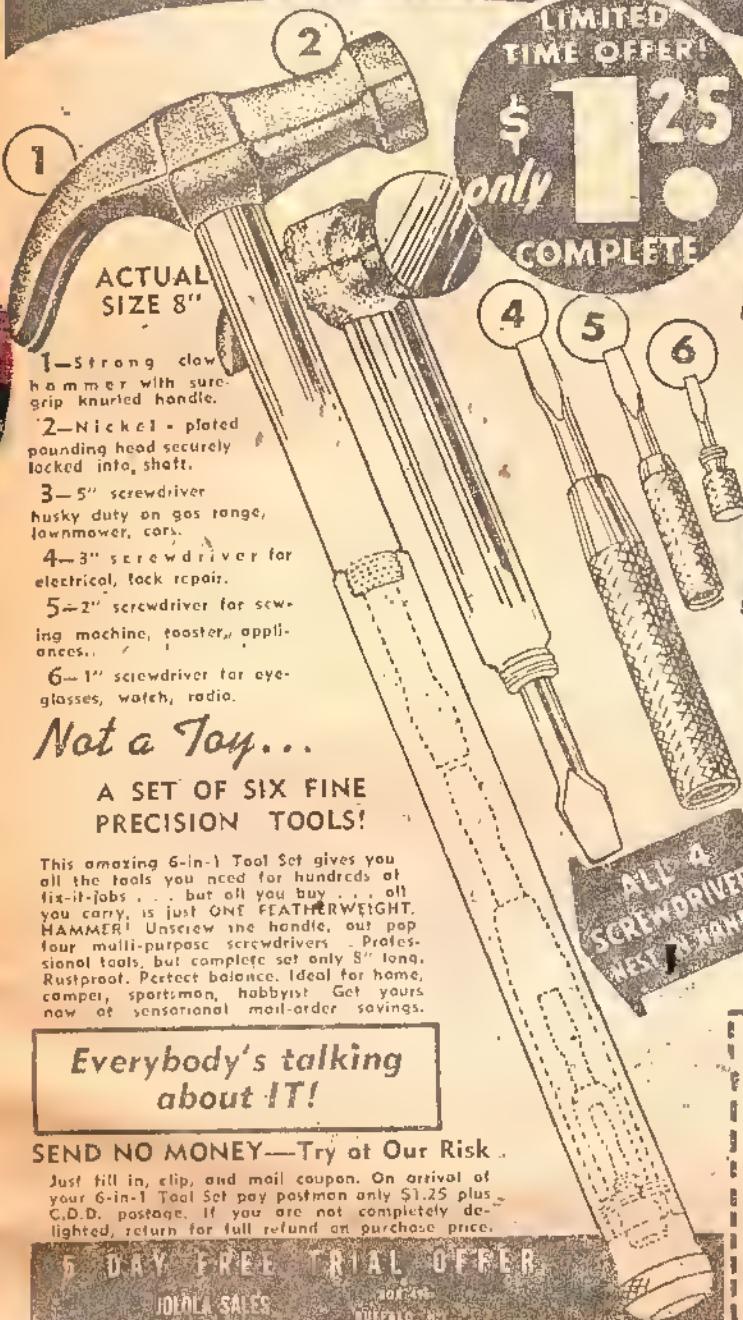
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THE MAN WHO TRICKED THE DEVIL!

A
TALE OF
HORROR

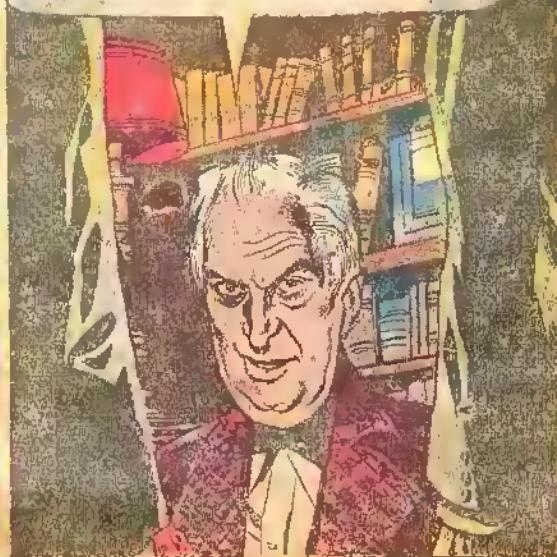
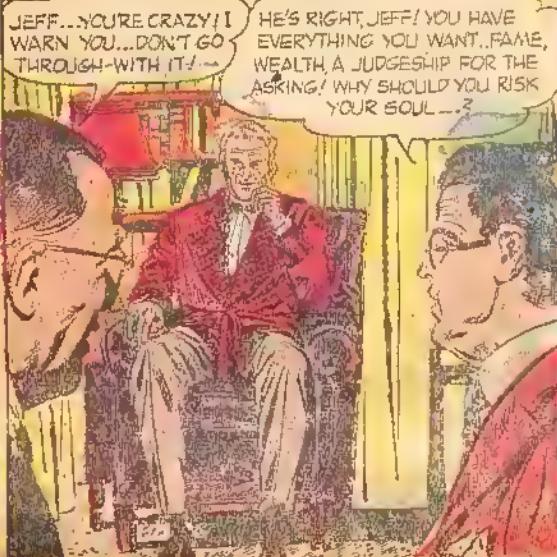
"LOTS OF RUMORS BEEN FLOATING AROUND LATELY ABOUT A MAN WHO TRICKED ME... I THOUGHT, YOU'D LIKE TO GET THE INSIDE-DOPE. PULL YOUR CHAIRS CLOSER... MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE... NO NEED TO SHIVER. NOW, THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR SHIVERING AFTER I'VE FINISHED MY STORY..."

ANYBODY WHO CAN READ A HEADLINE HAS HEARD OF JEFF HAGSTONE... THE WORLD'S GREATEST LAWYER. WELL... MY STORY STARTS IN HAGSTONE'S DARKENED STUDY...

JEFF... YOU'RE CRAZY! I
WARN YOU... DON'T GO
THROUGH WITH IT! —

HE'S RIGHT, JEFF! YOU HAVE
EVERYTHING YOU WANT... FAME,
WEALTH, A JUDGESHIP FOR THE
ASKING! WHY SHOULD YOU RISK
YOUR SOUL... ?

BECAUSE, GENTLEMEN, I AM THE ONLY MAN ALIVE WITH THE
PRECISE COMBINATION OF BRAINS AND BACKGROUND
THAT WILL ENABLE ME TO TRICK THE DEVIL!



JEFF, IT CAN'T BE DONE! THE DEVIL NEVER MAKES GOOD ON HIS BARGAINS! REMEMBER TED MAXWELL? HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY. HAVE YOU? KNOW WHY? BECAUSE HE TRIED TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE DEVIL!

TED WAS OBSESSED ALL HIS LIFE WITH FINDING A WOMAN OF FLAWLESS BEAUTY. HE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE, SPENT MILLIONS... AT LAST IN DESPAIR, HE CALLED ON THE DEVIL...

AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. MAXWELL!



I KNOW WHAT YOU'LL WANT IN EXCHANGE THAT CAN BE EASILY ARRANGED!
BUT I AM WILLING! TAKE MY SOUL... JUST SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE... IN BLOOD, OF COURSE
BUT GIVE ME THE DAUGHTER OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ALIVE
TODAY!

...THE ROOM WAS SUDDENLY SHROUDED IN DARKNESS/ BUT THEN... IN A CORNER... SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE INSIDE A SWIRLING MIST... APPEARED A GIRL...

ALL MY LIFE... I'VE BEEN WAITING ALL MY LIFE
FOR THIS...!



...TED TIPOED FORWARD. HIS FINGERS TREMBLED AS HE CAREFULLY LIFTED THE VEIL...

AEEEEEE! A LEPER!! SHE IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU ASK FOR, MR. MAXWELL! THE DAUGHTER OF THE HANDSOMEST MAN AND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD! AND YOU TOUCHED HER... HEH... HEH!



VERY INTERESTING...BUT WHAT CHANCE DID A HEAD-IN-THE-DOORS DILETTANTE HAVE WITH THE DEVIL? I HAVE THE EQUIPMENT! I CAN HANDLE HIM!

WHAT ABOUT BULOFF, TELL HIM THE STORY. JEFF MUST BE DISSUADED!



THE BLOOD WAS STILL WET ON THE CONTRACT WHEN BULOFF HEARD BLACK WINDS RUSHING INSIDE HIS HEAD...AND THE ROOM BEGAN TO TILT CRAZILY...



TODAY I WILL ISSUE MY FIRST PROCLAMATION. EVERY YEAR HENCEFORTH THIS DAY SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS BULOFF DAY, AND...



“TWO PRETTY GRIM TALES OF ME AT MY BEST, EH...? BUT JEFF HAGSTONE WOULD NOT BE DISSUADED...”

FOR THE LAST TIME, REMEMBER THIS...NEITHER MAYWELL NOR BULOFF HAD MY LEGAL BACKGROUND. COME BACK TOMORROW NIGHT, AND I GUARANTEE YOU THE SURPRISE OF YOUR LIVES!



WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS STUDY AND PUT THROUGH
A CALL FOR ME...

RISE, DEVIL, RISE...FROM THE DEPTHS BELOW! RISE,
DEVIL, RISE...THERE IS EVIL TO SOW!



AT YOUR SERVICE, MR. HAGSTONE!



~~MAGSTONE WAS BRUSQUE, BUSINESS-LIKE. IN CLEAR LEGAL LANGUAGE, HE TOLD ME JUST WHAT HE WANTED.—~~

...TEN BILLION DOLLARS, DELIVERED IMMEDIATELY, IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SOUL AFTER I DIE... HMM...THAT CAN BE ARRANGED.



I HAVE ONE IMPORTANT STIPULATION THE CONTRACT FORM MUST BE MINE....NOT YOURS!



CONFOUND IT! I SHOULD HAVE KNOW BETTER THAN TO
TANGLE WITH THE GREATEST LAWYER IN THE WORLD!
YOU MEAN TO TIE MY HANDS WITH A MILLION
DIFFERENT PROHIBITORY CLAUSES!

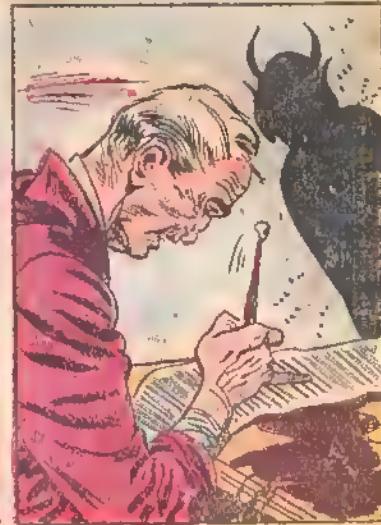
AFTER I SKIMMED THROUGH THE FIRST FEW THOUSAND CLAUSES...

...I TOOK OVER. YOU HAVE BEEN BOUND ONLY BY
GENERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF POORLY PHRASED
DOCUMENTS. BUT NOW, EVERY POSSIBLE
COMPLICATED MOVE THAT MIGHT WORK TO MY DISADVANTAGE
HAS BEEN ANTICIPATED... IN BLACK
AND WHITE!

NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT SIGN IT, OF COURSE... AND IN
BLOOD TOO. THERE
ISN'T A THING I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT YOUR WAY
OF HANDLING THINGS...



SO JEFFERY HAGSTONE BEGAN TO SIGN. IT TOOK ALMOST ALL NIGHT... AND LOTS OF BLOOD...



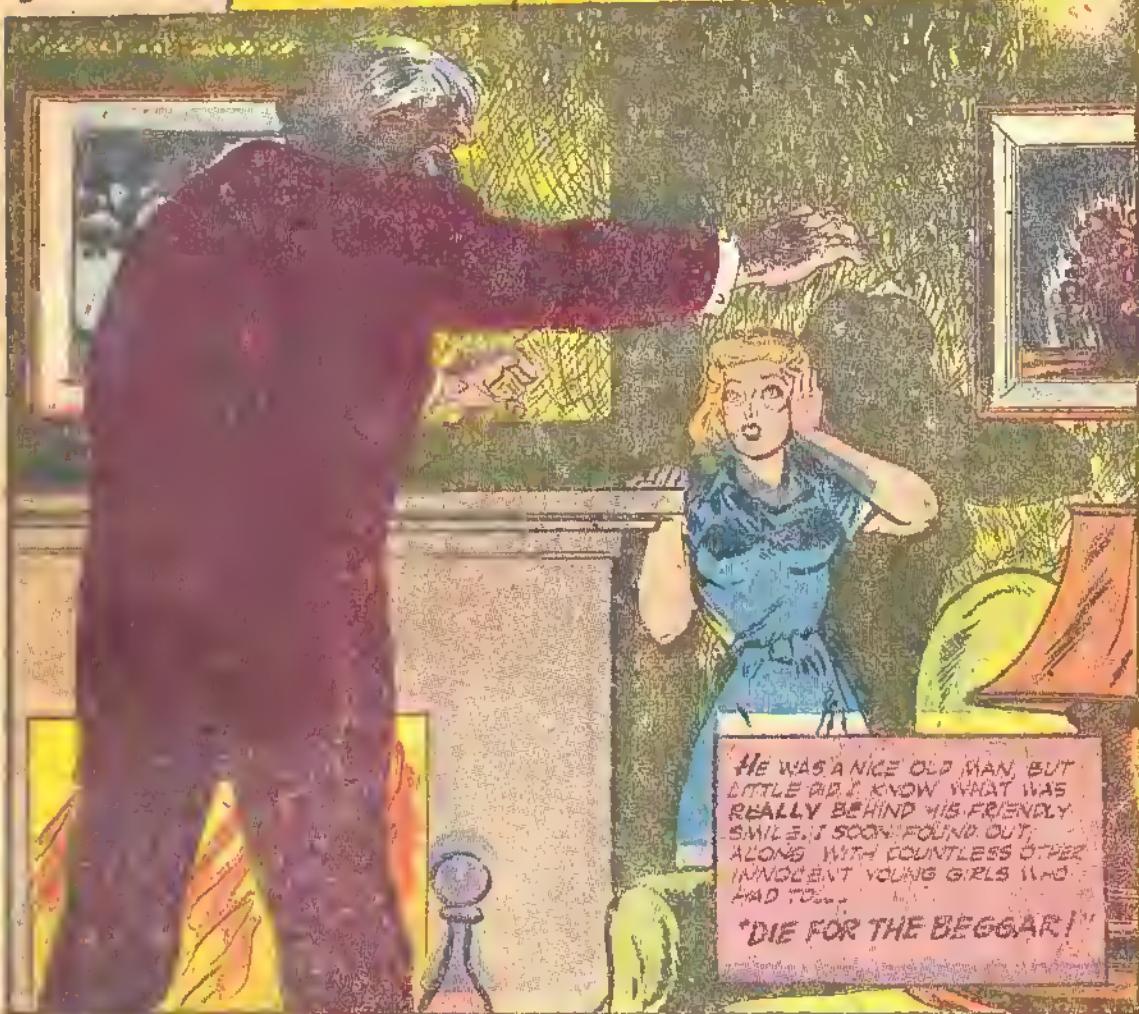
WHEN HIS FRIENDS CAME THE NEXT NIGHT, JEFF
HAGSTONE KEPT HIS WORD. THEY GOT THE
SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES!

HE'S
DEAD!
SEE HOW PALE HE IS! AND THAT DRY
OPEN WOUND ON HIS FOREARM! HE
MUST BE COMPLETELY DRAINED
OF BLOOD!

THAT'S THE STORY...
ANYBODY ELSE
WANTS TO TRY TO
TRICK ME HEH-HEH-
HEH-HEH... STEP
RIGHT UP, FOLKS!
YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO LOSE BUT
YOUR SOULS...



THE
END



I LEFT WORK AT FIVE O'CLOCK, AND HE WAS THERE AGAIN AT HIS OLD STAND AND THAT DAY JUST AS I DID FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS, I GREETED HIM.



I COULDN'T FORGET GEORGE BAXTER, THE OLD BEGGAR, AND THAT NIGHT, AT A SMALL GATHERING OF MY FRIENDS, THE OLD MAN DOMINATED OUR CONVERSATION....



THE NEXT DAY WHEN I PASSED THE BEGGAR'S STREET CORNER, HE WASN'T THERE...



ALL THE WAY HOME I COULDN'T HELP BUT WORRY ABOUT THE OLD BEGGAR. WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?



I WAS ALL ANXED UP. I NEEDED ADVICE. A COUPLE OF MILLION DOLLARS WAS NOTHING TO THROW OUT OF...

THE WINDOW... EVEN IF I HAD TO MARRY THE OLD BEGGAR... I WENT TO SEE HENRY...

I DON'T KNOW HARRIET! THERE MAY BE A CATCH THERE!

BUT THERE'S NO CATCH, HENRY! I CHECKED UP ON THE OLD BEGGAR! HE'S GOT AN ACCOUNT IN PRACTICALLY EVERY BANK IN NEW YORK!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY! THAT'S A LOT OF DOLLSH TO INHERIT WHEN YOUR DEAR, OLD "HUSBAND" DIES!

THEN WE'LL HAVE IT ALL. HENRY! HE COULDN'T LIVE MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AND IF WE GET IMPATIENT WE CAN SLAY HIM VERY EASILY!



I GAVE GEORGE MY ANSWER, AND BEFORE OUR WEDDING I MADE HIM SIGN OVER HIS FORTUNE TO ME. GEORGE DIDN'T OBJECT, BUT HE HAD A PAPER FOR ME TO SIGN...

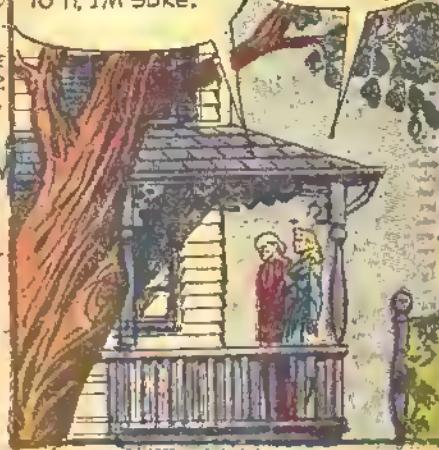
HMM! ACCORDING TO THIS PAPER, I WON'T GO OUT WITH OTHER MEN AS LONG AS GEORGE IS ALIVE... I WILL CARE FOR HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE! IT DOESN'T HURT TO SIGN AND MAKE THE OLD BOY HAPPY.



AND SO WE WERE MARRIED. GEORGE TOOK ME TO HIS HOME... OUR HOME. IT FILLED ME WITH HORROR. SOMETHING TERRIBLE WAS GOING TO HAPPEN... AND SOMEHOW I KNEW IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO GEORGE...

WE'LL BE VERY HAPPY HERE, HARRIET DARLING! YOU'LL GROW ACCUSTOMED TO IT, I'M SURE.

YES, G-GEORGE. I'M SURE I WILL...



I HATED IT... I HATED EVERY MINUTE OF IT. MY NIGHTS WERE SPENT IN TEARS, REGRETTING THE DAY I EVER DECIDED TO MARRY THE UGLY OLD BEGGAR! THEN... ONE NIGHT, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR...



WHEN GEORGE SAW THE TALL STRANGER, HIS FACE TURNED PALE. ALTHOUGH HE GREETED HIM CORDIALLY, I KNEW THAT GEORGE FEARED THIS STRANGE MAN. THEY WENT INTO THE LIBRARY TOGETHER...

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME THOMAS! YES, GEORGE! COME! WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DISCUSS!

WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DISCUSS!



SOMETHING DREADFUL WAS HAPPENING... I KNEW IT! I HAD TO FIND OUT WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT. I HEARD HIS VOICE... THE MAN GEORGE CALLED THOMAS.

YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, GEORGE! YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW, DON'T YOU?

PLEASE DON'T TAKE HER FROM ME! PLEASE! HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU ENOUGH THESE PAST 350 YEARS! HAVEN'T I ALREADY PAID DEARLY FOR MY CRIME?

YOU DID COMMIT MURDER! HOWEVER, I AGREE... YOUR ETERNAL LIFE HAS BEEN AN UNHAPPY ONE! I WOULD BE UNHAPPY TOO, IF ALL MY BRIDES WERE TAKEN FROM ME! ALL RIGHT, GEORGE... YOU MAY HAVE THIS ONE! YOU MAY KEEP HER FOREVER!

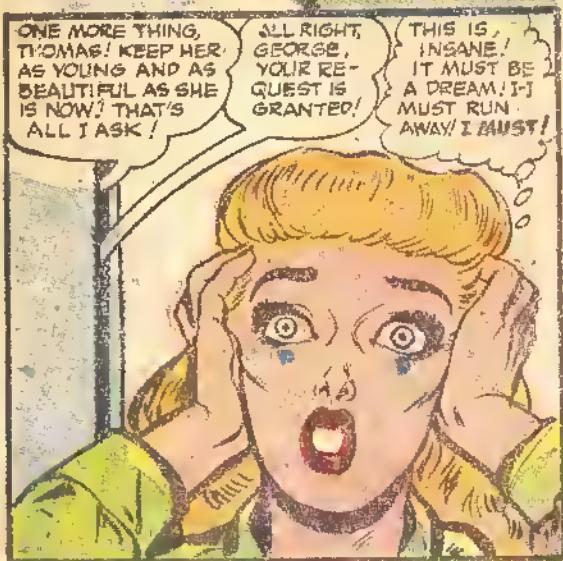
YOUR DEBT HAS BEEN PAID!



ONE MORE THING, THOMAS! KEEP HER AS YOUNG AND AS BEAUTIFUL AS SHE IS NOW! THAT'S ALL I ASK!

ALL RIGHT, GEORGE, YOUR REQUEST IS GRANTED!

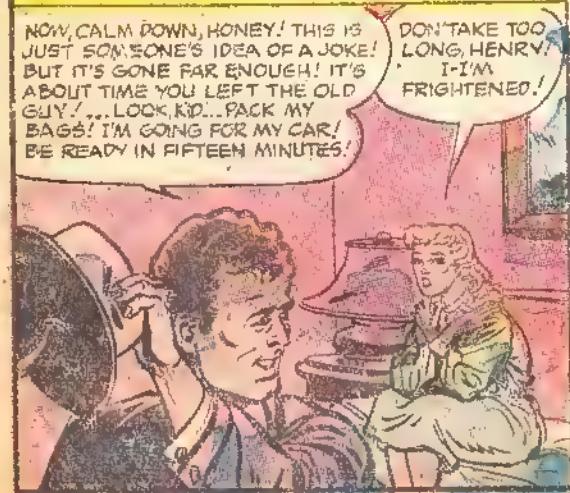
THIS IS, INSANE! IT MUST BE A DREAM! I MUST RUN AWAY! I MUST!



THEN I THOUGHT OF HENRY. HE WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO. I RAN TO HIS APARTMENT, AND TOLD HIM THE WILD STORY...

NOW, CALM DOWN, HONEY! THIS IS JUST SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE! BUT IT'S GONE FAR ENOUGH! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LEFT THE OLD GUY!... LOOK, KID... PACK MY BAGS! I'M GOING FOR MY CAR! BE READY IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, HENRY! I'M FRIGHTENED!



THE BAGS WERE ALL PACKED, AND I WAS READY TO LEAVE... BUT HENRY DIDN'T RETURN. TWO HOURS, THREE HOURS PASSED... NO HENRY...

HENRY! WHERE ARE YOU? WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK? WHERE ARE YOU?



SICK WITH WORRY, I LEFT THE APARTMENT. WHEN I REACHED THE STREET I SAW IT...



IT WAS HENRY'S CAR. I PUSHED MY WAY THROUGH THE CROWD, AND THERE HE WAS...CRUSHED BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION!



I RAN AWAY. I HAD TO BE WITH SOMEONE...I HAD TO TALK TO SOMEONE. I WAS TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED.



WHEN I ARRIVED AT GRACE'S HOME, SHE WAS DEAD!

WE-WE TRIED TO CONTACT YOU HARRIET! WE...KNEW HOW FOND YOU WERE OF EACH OTHER...

THIS IS A BAD DREAM! WHEN WILL I AWAKE? WHEN WILL I AWAKE AND FORGET THIS NIGHTMARE?



GRACE'S DEATH WAS TOO MUCH TO TAKE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN COINCIDENCE...BUT I DOUBTED IT. I LEFT NEW YORK, WENT TO CHICAGO AND MET A RICH YOUNG MAN. PERHAPS MY LUCK WAS CHANGIN. I THOUGHT....



JERRY TOOK ME TO AN EXCLUSIVE DINNER CLUB. I WAS HAPPY...AND THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS BEGAN TO VANISH....

HARRIET, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU! W-WILL YOU MARRY ME?



I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL JERRY. WOULD HE BELIEVE MY WEIRD STORY? WOULD HE BELIEVE THAT I WAS MARRIED TO A MAN 350 YEARS OLD? BUT THEN IT HAPPENED! THEY CAME IN WITH GUNS...



THEY SPANNED THEIR BULLETS RECKLESSLY. JERRY FELL VICTIM. JERRY WAS DEAD!



DEATH FOLLOWED WHEREVER I WENT. I BEGAN TO DOUBT MY SANITY. NO ONE WAS SAFE AS LONG AS I WAS AROUND. I MET BOB HOLT, AND THE PICTURE BEGAN TO CHANGE...



I COULDN'T WAIT FOR BOB TO CALL FOR ME THAT EVENING. THE MINUTES DRAGGED BY...



BUT AT THAT SAME TIME, AT THE STEELMILL, BOB HAD AN ACCIDENT. HE TRIPPED ON THE CATWALK AND FELL INTO A VAT OF MOLTEN STEEL...



BOSS DEATH DID IT. I KNEW I COULDN'T EVER ESCAPE. I WAS THE KISS OF DEATH, AND EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS IN DEADLY DANGER....



THERE WAS BUT ONE THING FOR ME TO DO. I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE...



I HAD TO RETURN... I HAD TO RETURN...



I HAD TO RETURN TO THE ONLY MAN I WOULD EVER KNOW... TO THE ONLY MAN I WOULD EVER KISS...



I WAS EXPECTING YOU MY PEAR! NOW COME...
...KISS YOUR HUSBAND!

THE END



THE BEAST FROM THE DEEP!



FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS THERE'D BEEN A LIGHTHOUSE ON EL MUERTE, A TINY ISLAND OFF THE AZORES.

A FEW CHANGES HAD BEEN WROUGHT IN 200 YEARS. EL MUERTE HAD A NEW BIG, WINKING, BLINKING, SWEEPING LIGHT...

ROUND AND ROUND WENT THE BEAM OF THE AZORES LIGHTHOUSE. ITS FOOSHORN VOICE COULD BE HEARD FOR MANY MILES. ONE NIGHT THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER HEARD AN "ECHO"? IT HAD A BESTIAL REALITY THAT FRIGHTENED HIM. IT WAS HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH IT... THE BEAST FROM THE DEEP!



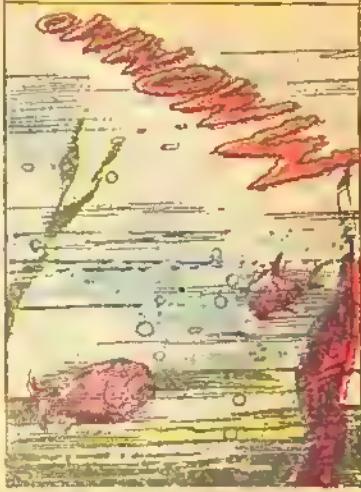
ACROSS THE SEA WENT
THE CRY, LIKE THE WAIL
OF A BEAST IN PAIN...



THE CRY WENT FAR... THE LONESOME
CRY OF A MONSTER SICK AT HEART...



THE MOAN WENT WIDE... THE
MOAN WENT DEEP...



THEN ONE NIGHT, THERE CAME
AN ECHO...



I-IT'S LIKE A VOICE
ANSWERING! ONLY DEEPER,
THROATIER...



T-TH....THROATIER?



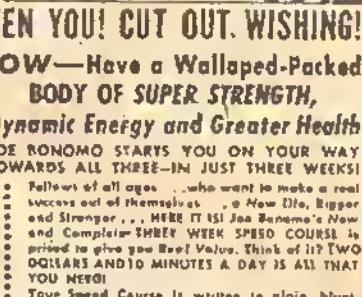
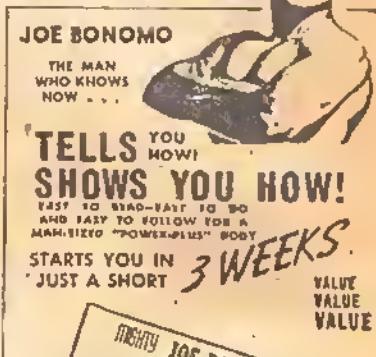
... (GASP!)



IT'S CLOSER NOW! HOW CAN AN
ECHO GET CLOSER? AM I GOING
MAD?!!



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RHUMBA, SAMBA, CALL SQUARE DANCES!

T-THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!
NOT A SHIP! NOT AN ECHO!
HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT IT IS!
I'LL TRY TO DIRECT THE BEAM.



N-NO... NOTHING! IT WAS MY IMAGINATION! A PASSING SHIP WITH A STRANGE, NEW FOG-HORN... I'LL RETURN THE LAMP TO ITS CIRCUIT...



IT WAS MY IMAGINATION.
THAT'S IT. I'M GETTING OLD.
MY MIND PLAYS TRICKS ON
ME.



AGAIN THE FOGHORN SOUNDED THIS TIME THERE
WAS NO ECHO, THE BIG EYE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE
GLEAMED EVILLY INTO THE DARK... LIKE THE
PHOSPHORESCENT ORB OF SOME THIN-NECKED
MONSTER LOOKING VAINLY FOR SOMETHING...
LOOKING EVERYWHERE... SCOURING THE SEAS...
IN VAIN... IN VAIN...



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT BREAKFAST...

YOU WILL CALL ME AN
OLD FOOL, JUAN... BUT
I SWEAR THAT ECHO
WAS THAT OF A BEAST
ANSWERING THE
FOGHORN!

HA! HA! YOU ARE LIKE
ONE OF THOSE ANCIENT
MARINERS WHO BE-
LIEVED IN SEA SERPENTS
AND THE FLATNESS OF
THE WORLD! THIS IS
1953, SIR... NOT
COLUMBUS' AGE!



HAVE I NOT SAID SO MYSELF?
YET SOMETHING NAMELESS
FRIGHTENS ME, JUAN. IT'S A
PREMONITION. I FEAR THE
COMING OF DARK. WHEN THE
BIG EYE IN THE TOWER LIGHTS
UP AGAIN, WHEN THE LIGHT-
HOUSE VOICE SPEAKS AGAIN
TO THE WINDS OF THE NIGHT...

NONSENSE! YOU
LET YOUR IMAGI-
NATION RUN AWAY
WITH YOU! THE
TIME OF SEA-
MONSTERS IS GONE.
THERE IS NOTHING
TO FEAR, I
ASSURE YOU...



THAT NIGHT...

GOING UPSTAIRS
FOR A LOOK AT
YOUR
SEA MONSTER?

LAUGH ALL YOU PLEASE!
THIS IS NO LAUGHING
MATTER TO ME. I HAVE
HEARD SEA NOISES FOR
FIFTY YEARS. WHAT I
HEARD LAST NIGHT WAS
SOMETHING THAT
SENDS A SHIVER
DOWN MY SPINE!



LET THEM MOCK ME! I AM OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD IS NOT KNOWN... THAT MANY SECRETS REMAIN. DEAD SECRETS SCIENCE CAN NEVER EXPLAIN. HMM... I'LL MOVE THE LIGHT AROUND...



GASP! THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE!... IT'S SWIMMING. ... LIKE A VESSEL WITHOUT RIGGING! I'LL FIX THE BEAM ON IT...



→GASP!←

EGASPS IT'S A M-MONSTER! IT'S ANSWERING THE FOGHORN! I'VE GOT TO TURN IT OFF!



T-THERE! IT CAN'T FOLLOW ANYTHING NOW! NEITHER LIGHT NOR SOUND!



WHAT THE DELICE IS GOING ON? YOU'VE TURNED OFF THE LIGHT! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, SIR?

NOT WITH ME, JUAN! LOOK THERE! YOU WILL SEE WHETHER IT'S ALL BEEN MY IMAGINATION!



I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING OUT THERE WITH THE LIGHT OUT! NEITHER CAN THE SHIPS AT SEA! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THIS BEAM GOING TO PREVENT WRECKS! ... WE... =GASP=

YOU FOOL! YOU'VE SHOWN HIM WHERE THE LIGHT IS! TURN IT OFF, QUICK!



T-TOO LATE! HE'S COMING FOR US! ROSA...HURRY! DOWN THE STAIRCASE!

I DIDN'T KNOW!...
... I DIDN'T THINK!...
... GASP!...

I TOLD YOU IT WAS A BEAST!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN LIVING
FOR CENTURIES IN THE DEPTHS
OF THE OCEAN!...ALONE...
NO COMPANIONS...NO BOUNDS!

THEN ONE NIGHT THE VIBRATIONS
OF THE FOGHORN MUST'VE
REACHED HIM! HE REMEMBERED
THE VOICE, SUBCONSCIOUSLY...
LIKE A MEMORY OF SOMETHING
AGES AGO! SOMETHING LONG
DEAD. HE, TOOK THE FOGHORN'S
VOICE FOR ANOTHER BEAST,
CALLING TO HIM...



IN HIS STUPID MIND HE
THOUGHT THE TOWER WAS
THE NECK OF A BEAST!...
WITH THE ISLAND FOR A
BODY! **LOOK!** HE'S GOING
TO EMBRACE THE TOWER!

WE'VE GOT TO GET
AWAY! HE'LL
SMASH IT TO
BITS!...



HURRY! START
THE BOAT!

NO! WE CAN'T USE THE MOTOR!
HE'LL HEAR THE SOUND AND
GO FOR US! WE'VE GOT TO
PADDLE AS NOISELESSLY
AS POSSIBLE!...



WE DIDN'T LEAVE
THE LIGHTHOUSE A
SECOND TOO SOON!



HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY, JUAN! HE SEES US!

I-I DON'T KNOW! IT MAY BE THE ISLAND OF SAN NOBLE HE SEES! IT'S LIGHTS ARE TWINKLING IN THE DARK! THEY MAY HAVE ATTRACTED HIM!

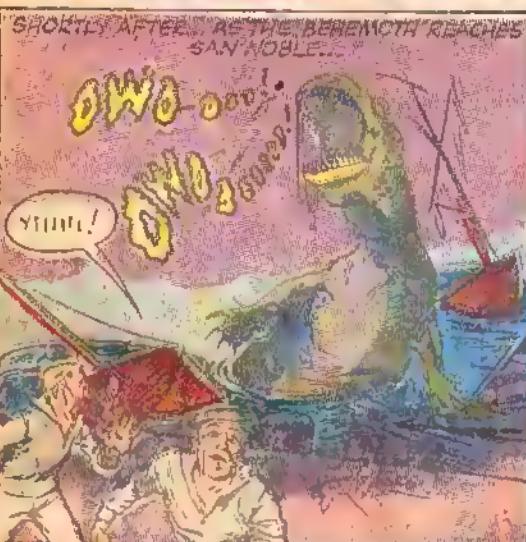
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S HEADED IN THAT DIRECTION! HE'S GONE BERSERK! HE SEES LIGHTS! HE TAKES THEM FOR EYES!



WHEN HE REACHES SAN NOBLE AND FINDS NO MONSTER THERE, HE'LL GO WILD! HE WILL TERRORIZE THE WHOLE ISLAND! HE'LL DESTROY HUMAN BEINGS BY THE HUNDREDS! AND WE CAN DO NOTHING...

WAIT! I JUST REMEMBERED! THERE WAS A BATTLESHIP REPORTED NEARBY! WE HAVE A SMALL RADIO! IF WE CAN ONLY CONTACT THE SHIP IN TIME...

NO! WE CAN NEVER BE IN TIME FOR SAN NOBLE! BUT THERE ARE OTHER ISLANDS! OTHER LIVES! RADIO THE WARSHIP! EVERY SECOND WE LOOSE MEANS MORE LIVES LOST!



HOURS LATER, IN THE STRICKEN TOWN, THE MONSTER, SUDDENLY WHIRLS! HE SEES A GLEAM OF LIGHT FROM THE SEA! HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VOICE...



IT IS THE CALL OF A FRIEND, THAT VOICE! THE MONSTER JOYOUSLY RESPONDS...

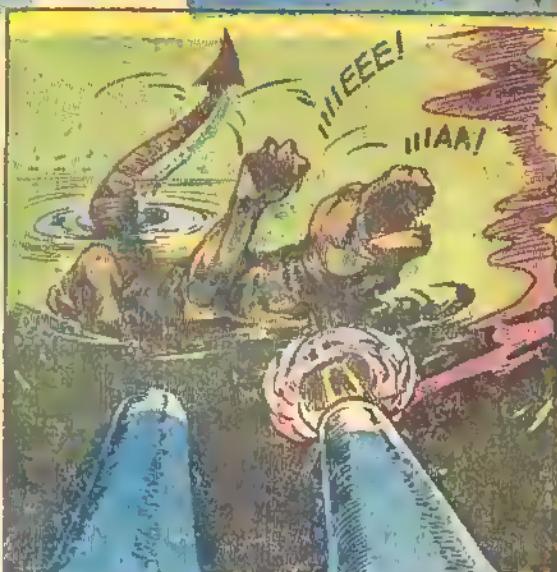


AGAIN IT COMES, THAT FAMILIAR VOICE... AGAIN THE GLEAM OF LIGHT WORKS AS A LURE FOR THE LONELY MONSTER...



YOU SEE? I WAS RIGHT! THE MONSTER TOOK OUR FOGHORN FOR THE VOICE OF ANOTHER BEAST! HE TOOK THE GLEAM OF YOUR SEARCHLIGHT FOR ANOTHER MONSTER! LOOK HOW EAGERLY HE SWIMS TOWARD US!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT EAGERNESS RIGHT NOW! MASON! FIRE AT WILL!



HOLD YOUR FIRE!
IT'S SINKING!

IT'S GOING DOWN! YOU KNOW... EVEN NOW... SEEING IT SINK... I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS THING HAPPENED... HOW COULD IT?



I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING... EXCEPT THAT I'M AFRAID... TERRIBLY AFRAID...



TWO MONTHS LATER, WHEN A NEW LIGHTHOUSE WAS BUILT... WHEN A NEW BEAM PASSED OVER THE WATER... AND A NEW FOGHORN GROANED INTO THE NIGHT...

WHAT IF THERE ARE OTHER MONSTERS? OTHER SERPENTS TO HEAR THE CALL OF THE FOGHORN? WHAT IF THEY COME UP...?



I DON'T KNOW,
JUAN, WE CAN WATCH
THE SEA AND WAIT...
WAIT... WAIT...

THE END

SPARKS OF LIFE

By Carl Rollyn



A TALE OF
HORROR

DINKY!!

HORROR STALKS AT NIGHT! HORROR WITH FANGED JAWS AND WOLFISH CLAWS! HORROR LUSTING FOR MURDER... LEERING FIENDISHLY AT GOODNESS AND MERCY! PUT A HUNDRED HORRORS TOGETHER AND THEY SPELL THE NAME OF AN ARCH-KILLER.... DINKY!!



THINGS STARTED WITH A MATCH...

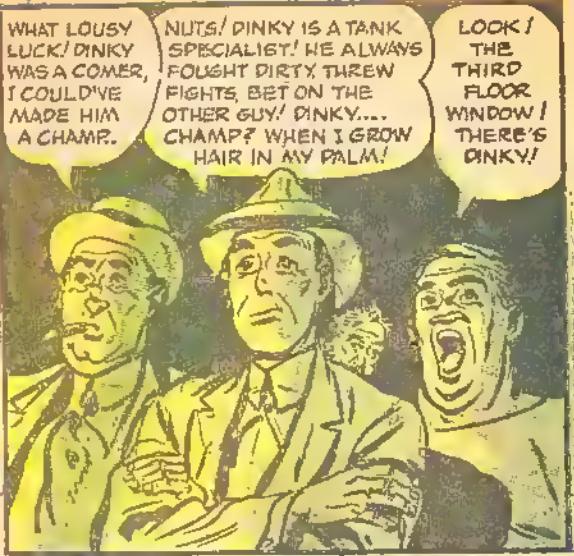


NOT THE KIND OF MATCH THAT OCCURS IN THE PRIZE RING, THE KIND OF MATCH THAT BURNS.



A CARELESSLY THROWN MATCH... AND TRAGEDY WAS IN THE MAKING!





THE WHOLE BUILDING'S GOIN' UP! JIM TRUMBULL AN' PETEY MORRIS... THEY'RE GONE! AT LEAST DINKY GOT OUT ALIVE!

IS HE BETTER OFF? EVEN IF DINKY LIVES... HE'LL BE A CRIPPLE FOR LIFE!

DINKY WAS NEVER A GENIUS! A THING LIKE THIS WILL DO SOMETHING TO HIS PEANUT BRAIN! TONIGHT COULD BE THE END OF DINKY THE PUNK... THE BEGINNING OF DINKY THE WHAT?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT! GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL BEFORE HE'S WORM MEAT!



A FEW DAYS LATER, DINKY'S ACCIDENT WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN...

IT COULDN'T HAPPEN TO A NICER GUY! DINKY WAS THE WORLD'S WORST! IT'S TIME FATE DISHED HIM A RABBIT PUNCH!

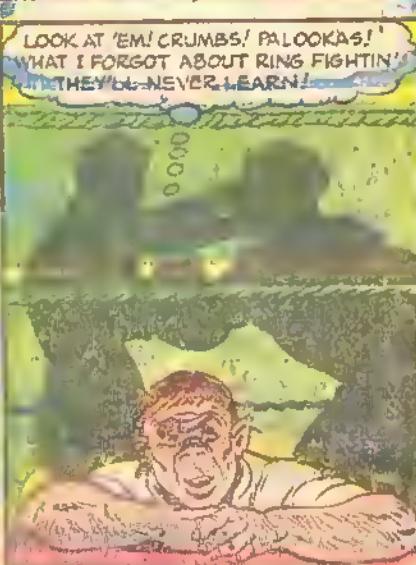
IF DINKY DIDN'T PUNCH LOW IN THE RING... HE PUNCHED LOW OUTSIDE IT! WHEN HE DIDN'T HAVE A HORSESHOE IN HIS GLOVE, HE HAD A ROD IN HIS HAND!

HE WASN'T NO CLARK GABLE TO BEGIN WITH! NOW THEY SAY LOOKIN' AT HIM RUNS A SHIVER DOWN YER SPINE!

KICKS MORAN, HIS MANAGER, GAVE HIM A JOB AROUND THE CAMP FOR OLD-TIME'S SAKE. IF I WAS KICK, I WOULDN'T WANT THAT CRUMB AROUND ME! HE'LL MAKE TROUBLE WHEREVER HE GOES!



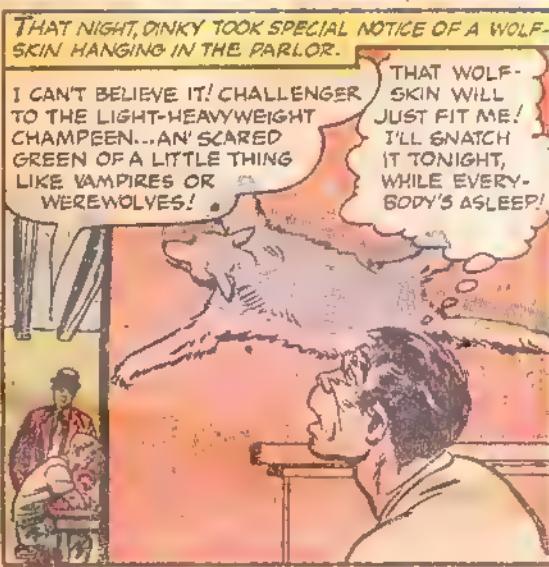
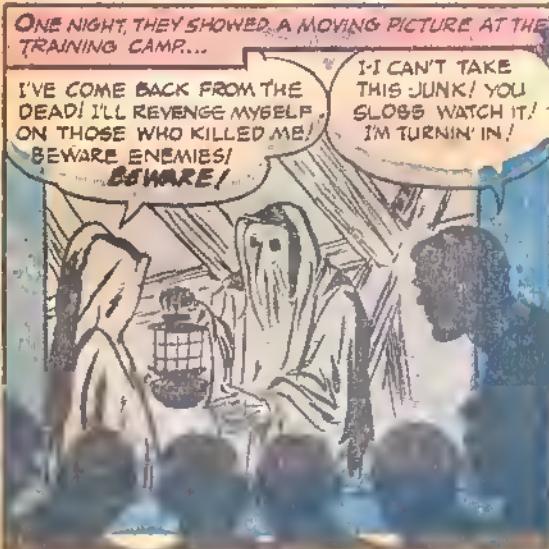
MONTHS PASSED. DINKY LEWIS CAME OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. OUTWARDLY, HE WAS BAD TO LOOK AT, AS ALWAYS. BUT THIS WAS NOTHING COMPARED WITH THE UGLINESS WITHIN HIM!

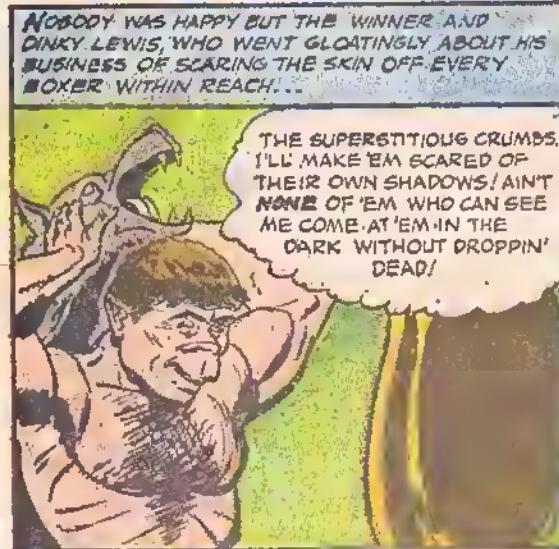


LOOK AT 'EM! CRUMBS! PALOOKAS! WHAT I FORGOT ABOUT RING FIGHTIN'! THEY'LL NEVER LEARN!

BUT I AINT FORGETTIN' IT WAS A PUG LIKE THEM WHO TOSSED THE MATCH THAT BURNED DOWN THE BUILDIN' I WAS SLEEPIN' IN! IT WAS A PUNK LIKE THEM WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM TODAY, A LOUSY CRIPPLE!







(GASP!)... IT'S GUYS LIKE YOU WHO MADE ME WHAT I AM... A LOUSY CRIPPLE! BUT I CAN STILL FIGHT! IF NOT WITH GLOVES, THEN WITH CLAWS AN' TEETH!



AS THE MUTILATED BODY UNDER HIM STIFFENED AND RELAXED, DINKY ROSE. NO LONGER DID DINKY LOOK LIKE HIMSELF!

AS DINKY SANK HIS FANGS INTO THE FIGHTER'S NECK, A SURGE OF EXULTANCY AND POWER MOVE THROUGH HIS BODY! HE BECAME AN ANIMAL, DRUNK WITH THE LUST TO KILL!



BUT A STRANGER THING HAPPENED WHEN HE GOT BACK TO HIS ROOM! IN A TWINKLE OF THE EYE, THE MARKS OF THE BEAST DISAPPEARED!



WILD ANIMALS WERE BLAMED FOR THAT MURDER AND THE CYCLE OF MURDERS THAT FOLLOWED. INSTINCTIVELY DINKY HATED A WINNER, AND IT WAS THE WINNERS HE MARKED FOR THE WEREWOLF.

HIMSELF... UNTIL ONE NIGHT, ONE OF THE BOXERS DINKY WAS ATTENDING BEGAN TO SCORE AN UPSET...

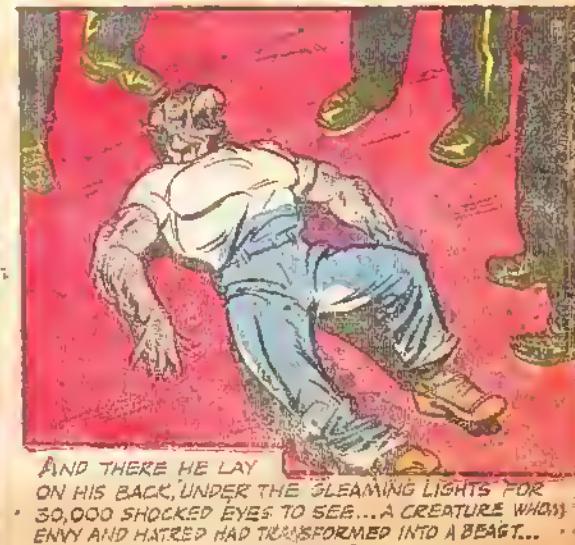
AGAIN THE UNDERDOG LANDS... AGAIN AND AGAIN! THE CHAMPION STAGGERS! WHAT A BOXER THIS ROGERS IS!



BOXER? THAT SHOULD BE ME IN THERE, SCORIN' THE UPSET! THE CRUMB! ROGER IS THERE BECAUSE HE AIN'T CRIPPLED LIKE ME!

WITH EVERY PUNCH, DINKY BECAME MORE TWISTED WITH HATRED AND JEALOUSY! HE BEGAN TO FEEL EVERY PUNCH LANDED, SO COMPLETELY DID HE PROJECT HIMSELF INTO THE FRAY





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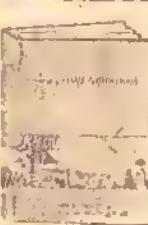
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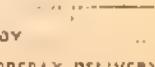
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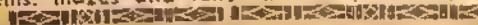
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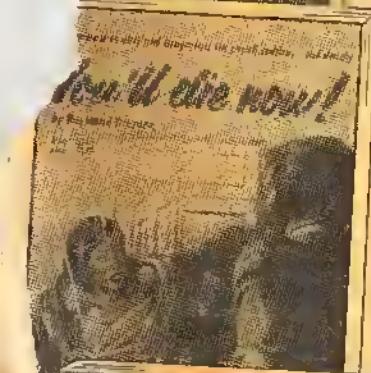
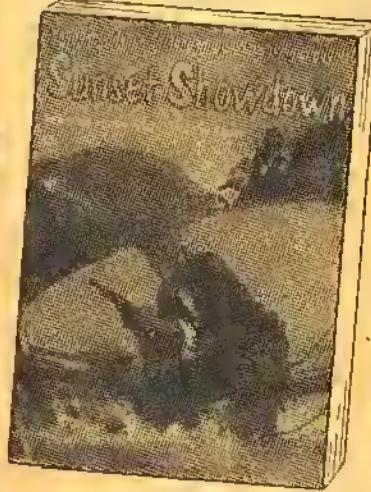
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